

Applicants : Barry W. Hutzl, et al.
Serial No. : 10/668,711
Page : 6

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 110-134 are pending in the application. Claims 111-122 and 125-134 are withdrawn from consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 110, 123, and 124 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,432,496 to Lin.

Applicant respectfully traverses. Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claim 110 to clarify the claim language to call for:

An interior rearview mirror system for a vehicle,
said rearview mirror system comprising:

a rearview mirror assembly, said rearview mirror assembly having a mirror casing, said mirror casing including a reflective element, and a support for mounting said mirror casing to a header portion or a windshield portion of a vehicle whereby adjustment of said rearview mirror assembly provides a rearward view through a rear window of the vehicle to a driver of the vehicle when the mirror assembly is mounted in the vehicle;

an information display repositionable between a viewing position viewable to an occupant of the vehicle wherein said information display is extended from said mirror casing and a non-viewing position fully retracted in said mirror casing wherein said information display is disposed to the rear of said reflective element and is not viewable by the driver; and

said information display comprising a display chosen from a video screen, an incandescent display, a vacuum fluorescent display, an electro-illuminiscent display, a light emitting diode display, a cathode ray tube display, a field emission display, an E-ink display, and an organic emitting polymer display and displaying one chosen from an output of a camera, vehicle

Applicants : Barry W. Hutzal, et al.
Serial No. : 10/668,711
Page : 7

status information, a compass display, a temperature display, a computer display, a train warning display, a clock display, and a television image to provide information to a driver of the vehicle or a passenger of the vehicle, said information display being pivotal at least about a generally vertical axis independent of said mirror casing and said reflective element wherein said information display may be adjusted to face the driver of the vehicle or the passenger of the vehicle independent of said mirror casing and said reflective element.

Applicants respectfully urge that Lin does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination, as clarified. For example, Lin does not disclose or suggest an interior rearview mirror system that includes a rearview mirror assembly with a reflective element that provides a rearward view through a rear window of a vehicle to the driver of the vehicle and an information display that is repositionable between a viewing position viewable to an occupant of the vehicle wherein the information display is extended from the mirror casing and a non-viewing position fully retracted in the mirror casing wherein the information display is disposed to the rear of the reflective element and is not viewable by the driver and, further, with the information display being pivotal about a generally vertical axis wherein the information display may be adjusted to face the driver of the vehicle or passenger of the vehicle independent of the mirror casing and reflective element.

In contrast, Lin discloses an electronic display board (3) that is made to slide in the sliding slot (124) that is defined between the two partition walls of the front and back cover shells (11, 12). The board (3) is driven by a transmission mechanism (2) to move up and down in the slot (124) in a linear fashion. When moved up and down, the board (3) will touch either limit switch (122) or limit switch (123), which are located in the same vertical plane and which cause it to change the moving direction of the transmission mechanism. Therefore, Lin does not teach or suggest pivoting an information display about a vertical axis so that the display can be adjusted to face the driver of the vehicle independent of the mirror casing and reflective element. Further, any proposed modification to Lin to meet the claimed

Applicants : Barry W. Hutzal, et al.
Serial No. : 10/668,711
Page : 8

combination would change the principal operation of the Lin device; therefore, any such proposed modification would not be obvious. *In re Ratti*, 270 F.2d 810, 123 U.S.P.Q. 349 (CCPA 1959).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claim 110 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 123 and 124, are patentably distinguishable over Lin alone or in combination with any other reference of record.

In addition, because Claims 111-122 and 125-134 depend from an allowable claim, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 111-122 and 125-134 be entered back into the case and allowed along with Claims 110, 123, and 124.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and solicits a Notice to that effect.

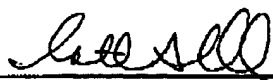
Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506 or at collins@vglb.com.

Respectfully submitted,

BARRY W. HUTZEL. ET AL.

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhart LLP

July 19, 2005
Date


Catherine S. Collins
Registration No. 37 599
2851 Charlevoix Drive, S.E.
P.O. Box 888695
Grand Rapids, MI 49588-8695
(616) 975-5506

CSC:lmse